

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp (1) with upper inking, comprising a housing (2) in which a stamp unit (5) which is coupled with an actuating part (8) and includes stamp characters (7) is movably arranged and which has an insertion compartment (3) with at least one insertion opening (29, 30), said insertion compartment containing an ink pad container (4) having a bottom (22) and side walls (23, 24), and said insertion compartment has a lower opening facing the stamp unit for inking of the stamp characters (7), in an upper, turned position, by contacting ~~the~~ an ink pad (4') in said ink pad container (4), wherein continuous guiding and centering projections (26) are provided for the ink pad container (4) which are arranged on two lateral opposite sides of the insertion compartment (3) in the direction of insertion, and wherein the ink pad container has recesses provided along the length of two opposite lateral side walls, said recesses cooperating with the guiding and centering projections to define

precise guiding and centering of the ink pad container (4) during its insertion.

2. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1, wherein the guiding and centering projections (26) are formed by ledges extending in the direction of insertion.

3. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 2, wherein the ledges are substantially rectangular, seen in front view.

4. (Previously Presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1 wherein the ink pad container (4) has a lower rim, which is provided on lower side portions of the ink pad container when inserted in the insertion compartment.

5. (Previously Presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 4, wherein the recesses (27) are provided on the lower rim of the ink pad container (4).

6. (Currently Amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1, wherein the recesses (27) on their side which is the upper side in the inserted state of the ink pad container (4) are delimited by ledge projections (28) on the side walls (23) of the ink pad container (4).

7. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1, wherein at least one resilient retention element (17, 18) is arranged in the insertion compartment (3) for resilient abutment on the ink pad container (4).

8. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7, wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) is arranged on the upper side of the compartment, located opposite the opening (25') provided on the lower side of the insertion compartment (3).

9. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7, wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) is designed as a snap-in

element for snapping engagement on the ink pad container (4).

10. (Previously Presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 9, wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) has a snap-in projection (20) in the shape of a knob.

11. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 9, wherein the ink pad container (4) has a bottom area which faces upwardly in the inserted position, wherein the bottom area includes a depression for snapping engagement of the resilient ~~retention~~ retention element. ~~includes a depression (21) for snapping engagement of the resilient retention element (17, 18).~~

12. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 11, wherein the depression (21) is formed by a groove extending in a direction corresponding to the direction of insertion of the ink pad container (4) into the insertion container.

13. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 12, wherein the depression (21) is delimited by an end wall (17', 18') on both ends.

14. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7, wherein two resilient retention elements (17, 18) are arranged in successive alignment in the insertion direction of the ink pad container (4).

15. (previously presented)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 14, wherein the two resilient retention elements (17, 18) are tongue-shaped snap-in elements having a snap-in projection (20) on each one of their free ends that face away from each other.

16. (Currently Amended)

An ink pad container (4) to be used in a self-inking stamp (1), comprising a bottom (22) and side walls (23, 24) projecting away therefrom, wherein ~~lateral~~ in use horizontally arranged recesses (27) are provided along a length of ~~on~~ two lateral

opposite side walls (23) of said ink pad container and cooperate with continuous guiding and centering projections (26) in ~~the~~ an insertion compartment (3) of the self-inking stamp (1) to define precise guiding and centering of the ink pad container (4) during its insertion.

17. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 16, wherein the ~~lateral~~ recesses (27) are provided on a rim of the two lateral opposite side walls (23) that faces away from the bottom (22).

18. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 16, wherein the ~~lateral~~ recesses (27), on their side which is the upper side in the inserted state of the ink pad container (4), are delimited by ledge projections (28) on the two opposite side walls (23) of the ink pad container (4).

19. (previously presented)

An ink pad container according to claim 16, wherein the bottom (22) is designed with a depression provided for snapping engagement of a resilient retention element (17, 18) provided in

the insertion compartment (3) of the self-inking stamp (1).

20. (previously presented)

An ink pad container according to claim 19, wherein the depression (21) is formed by a groove extending in the direction of insertion of the ink pad container (4).

21. (previously presented)

An ink pad container according to claim 20, wherein the depression (21) is delimited on both ends by an end wall (17', 18').

22. (previously presented)

An ink pad container according to claim 19, wherein the depression (21) is provided centrally in the bottom (22).